

**CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**December 12, 2005**

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners met in a *Special Called Session* on this date, at the hour of 5:00 p.m., in the Commission Chamber of the Cleveland County Administrative Offices, for the purpose of discussing *Pathways regionalization*.

**PRESENT:** Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman  
Jerry L. Self, Vice-Chairman  
Mary S. Accor, Commissioner  
Johnny Hutchins, Commissioner  
David C. Dear, County Manager  
Sam Craig, Deputy County Attorney  
Wanda Crotts, County Clerk  
Eddie Bailes, Assistant County Manager  
Chris Crepps, Finance Director  
Lindsey Allen, Cleveland Headline News

**ABSENT:** Willie B. McIntosh, Commissioner

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ronald J. Hawkins called the meeting to order.

**PATHWAYS REGIONALIZATION**

***Rhett Melton***, Pathways Area Director, accompanied by Pathways staff and several Board members, distributed written information to Commissioners, which he then reviewed (*copy found on Pages \_\_\_\_\_ of Minute Book 29*). He noted the Pathways Area Board feels it will be best to associate with Mecklenburg, after considering the advantages and disadvantages regarding regionalization.

There was discussion regarding current staff being taken on by Mecklenburg; the thought that this process seems to further remove services from citizens; if the partnership with Mecklenburg does not work can it be changed – still uncertain as to how this would be resolved; Mr. Melton feels a partnership with Mecklenburg would allow for a “true partnership” and more combinations of counties would “hinder input”; feels Mecklenburg “sought us out because they knew this would be a strong partnership”; there will be no formal seat on the Mecklenburg board from Pathways, but Pathways will “be at the table” with input”; appeals will be done locally; and, if further reductions come in the future, Mecklenburg is a strong player and we would probably not have to change partnerships.

**ACTION:** It was the unanimous consensus of the Board, *to direct Commissioner McIntosh to support the partnership with Mecklenburg* (*Commissioner McIntosh is the Commission representative to the Pathways Area Board*). (*Reference Pages \_\_\_\_\_ of Minute Book 29 for the Press Release issued on December 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the decision of the Pathways Area Board on this matter.*)

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mary Accor made the motion, seconded by Jerry Self, and unanimously adopted by the Board, to adjourn the meeting (*at 5:35 p.m.*).

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*Ronald J. Hawkins, Chairman  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*

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*Wanda Crotts, CMC, Clerk  
Cleveland County Board of Commissioners*